

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 NATO 04985

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, NATO, MILI

SUBJECT: CSCE/CBMS: JUNE 7 POLADS MEETING

REF: STATE 130422 (DTG 070021Z JUN 77 NOTAL)

SUMMARY: AT THEIR JUNE 7 MEETING, POLADS:

A. COMPLETED WORK ON ISD/147;

B. HELD AN INCONCLUSIVE EXCHANGE ON SETTING PRIORITIES
AMONG POSSIBLE ALLIED CBM INITIATIVES AT BELGRADE;

C. DISCUSSED NOTIFICATION OF MILITARY MOVEMENTS.

WHILE WE DO NOT NEED SPECIFIC GUIDANCE FOR NEXT POLADS CBM
DISCUSSION ON JUNE 14, WE BELIEVE THAT INFORMING ALLIES OF
US THINKING ON NOTIFICATION OF MOVEMENTS WOULD HELP
ADVANCE POLADS CONSIDERATION OF SETTING PRIORITIES AMONG
POSSIBLE CBMS INITIATIVES. IN ADDITION, WE RECOMMEND
DEMARCHES IN CAPITALS OF ALLIES THAT HAVE RESISTED SETTING
OF PRIORITIES (SEE PARA 8). END SUMMARY

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1. ISD/147. POLADS REVIEWED ISD/147 AND MOST OF US SUG-
GESTIONS IN PARA 2 REFTEL WERE ACCEPTED. HOWEVER, AS
REGARDS SUGGESTION IN PARA 2A OF REFTEL, ALLIES THOUGHT
THAT US SENTENCE WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE IN SECTION OF
LONG CBMS PAPER (ISD/141) DEALING WITH EASTERN CRITICISMS
OF WESTERN PERFORMANCE.

2. ON SUGGESTION IN PARA 2B OF REFTTEL, THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE ALLIED RESISTANCE TO US-PROPOSED LANGUAGE ABOUT ASKING SACEUR TO PROVIDE FACTUAL DATA ON THE NUMBER OF ALLIED EXERCISES SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE FINAL ACT. LARGE MAJORITY OF ALLIED REPS FELT THAT THE WEST SHOULD NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN ARGUING WITH THE SOVIETS REGARDING THE NUMBER OF MANEUVERS HELD SINCE HELSINKI AS THIS QUESTION WAS NOT RELEVANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE FINAL ACT. RATHER, THEY ARGUED, THE WESTERN COUNTRIES SHOULD KEEP THE FOCUS AT BELGRADE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF CBM PROVISIONS.

3. RE PARA 2C OF REFTTEL, FRG DELEGATION PREFERRED THAT WE NOT SEEK INCLUSION OF THIS SUGGESTION ON THE GROUNDS THAT, IN VIEW OF SOVIET REFUSAL TO SEND OBSERVERS TO NORWEGIAN EXERCISE EARLIER THIS YEAR, OUR SUGGESTED FORMULATION HAD BEEN OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS. WE THUS DID NOT PRESS FOR THIS LANGUAGE.

4. ALL OTHER US SUGGESTIONS WERE ACCEPTED AND WILL APPEAR IN THE REVISED TEXT OF ISD/147, WHICH WILL BE INCORPORATED INTO FINAL VERSION OF ISD/141 (LONG CBMS PAPER).

5. SETTING PRIORITIES AMONG POSSIBLE ALLIED CBM INITIATIVES AT BELGRADE. IN LONG AND INCONCLUSIVE DISCUSSION OF SETTING PRIORITIES AMONG POSSIBLE ALLIED CBM INITIATIVES, US REP--SUPPORTED BY UK, FRG, ITALIAN, AND CANADIAN COLLEAGUES--ARGUED STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF AN EARLY START TO SUCH WORK, DRAWING ON GUIDANCE IN PARA 4 OF REFTTEL. IN ELABORATING ON BRITISH PROPOSAL FOR CATEGORIZING POSSIBLE

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NEW CBMS PROPOSALS, UK REP EXPLAINED THAT THE CATEGORIES ARE NOT RIGID BUT RATHER INTENDED TO SERVE AS A GUIDE FOR INTERNAL ALLIED DELIBERATIONS. WE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE FOR ALLIES TO ORDER INITIATIVES AS A GROUP RATHER THAN IN SEPARATE "ADVANCE" AND "SUPPORT" CATEGORIES. FRG REP SAID HIS AUTHORITIES BELIEVE THAT THE ALLIED ORDER OF PRIORITIES SHOULD BE AS FOLLOWS:

(A) STRENGTHENING NOTIFICATION PROVISIONS IN 10-25,000 TROOP RANGE;

(B) IMPROVING TREATMENT OF OBSERVERS; AND

(C) ACCEPTANCE OF A MOVEMENTS CBM.

6. FRG REP STRESSED THAT A MOVEMENTS CBM SHOULD HAVE LOWER PRIORITY THAN THE OTHER TWO. IN THIS CONNECTION, TURKISH REP POINTEDLY SAID THAT AN ALLIED EFFORT TO SET PRIORITIES WOULD BE HELPED IF THE US POSITION ON MOVEMENTS

WERE KNOWN. HE ADDED THAT ANKARA THOUGHT IMPROVEMENT OF THE CBMS PROVISIONS ON MOVEMENTS SHOULD HAVE "HIGH PRIORITY". WE RESPONDED, PER PARA 4B OF REFTTEL, THAT WE HOPED TO BE IN A POSITION SOON TO COMMENT ON MOVEMENTS.

7. IN THE COURSE OF THIS DISCUSSION, DUTCH, NORWEGIAN, BELGIAN AND PORTUGUESE REPS EXPRESSED VIEW THAT IT WAS TOO EARLY FOR ALLIES NOW TO BEGIN SETTING PRIORITIES. SUCH AN EFFORT, THEY CONTENDED, COULD ONLY BE MADE IN THE LIGHT OF THE TACTICAL SITUATION AT BELGRADE. WE RESPONDED BY

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POINTING OUT THAT ALLIED DELEGATIONS AT BELGRADE WILL BE EXTREMELY BUSY DURING THE MAIN MEETING AND THAT IF A CO-HERENT ALLIED APPROACH ON THIS MATTER IS TO BE FORMULATED, THE NECESSARY PREPARATORY WORK WILL HAVE TO BE DONE BEFORE THEN. FRENCH REP, FOR THE RECORD, EXPRESSED HER AUTHORITIES' RESERVATIONS REGARDING ANY ALLIED CBM INITIATIVES. ON A PERSONAL BASIS, US REP SUGGESTED THAT THOSE ALLIES WHICH HAVE VIEWS REGARDING PRIORITIES AMONG POSSIBLE ALLIED CBM INITIATIVES MIGHT SUBMIT THESE VIEWS IN WRITING TO INTERNATIONAL STAFF, WHICH COULD PREPARE A SUMMARY AS A GUIDE FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION. OUR SUGGESTION WAS SUPPORTED BY DELEGATIONS FAVORABLE TO SETTING OF PRIORITIES.

8. COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION: IN VIEW OF PRESENT IMPASSE ON PRIORITIES ISSUE IN POLADS, WE BELIEVE IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL IF DEMARCHES WERE MADE IN CAPITALS TO EXPLAIN US THINKING ON THIS MATTER. WE WOULD SUG-

GEST THAT SUCH DEMARCHES BE MADE IN BRUSSELS, COPENHAGEN, THE HAGUE, OSLO, ATHENS, LUXEMBOURG, AND LISBON. IN VIEW OF GENERAL FRENCH ATTITUDE ON CBM INITIATIVES, WE DO NOT BELIEVE AN APPROACH IN PARIS WOULD BE USEFUL. END COMMENT.

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9. POSSIBLE CBM INITIATIVE ON NOTIFICATION OF MILITARY MOVEMENTS. IN BRIEF DISCUSSION OF FRG PROPOSAL ON MILITARY MOVEMENTS (NATO 4565-DTG 020950Z JUN 77), DUTCH, NORWEGIAN, AND TURKISH REPS STRESSED THAT THEIR AUTHORITIES BELIEVE THE ALLIES SHOULD TABLE OR ACTIVELY SUPPORT A MOVEMENTS PROPOSAL AT BELGRADE.

10. IN RESPONSE TO US QUESTION REGARDING REASONING BEHIND FRG OPINION THAT ALLIES SHOULD SUPPORT, RATHER THAN ADVANCE, A MOVEMENTS CBM (PARA 6 REFTEL), FRG REP SAID THAT THE FORMULATION USED IN THE FRG PAPER WAS THE RESULT OF A BUREAUCRATIC COMPROMISE BETWEEN OPPOSING VIEWS OF FOREIGN MINISTRY (WHICH FAVORED AN INITIATIVE ON MOVEMENTS) AND MOD (WHICH HAD RESERVATIONS). STREATOR

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